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Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
Washington, D.C. 20554

JAN 26 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of )

NANC Recommendation to Delay )

Filing of Waiver Requests by )

Individual Carriers for )

Local Number Portability )

Phase I Implementation )

CC Docket No. 95-116

DA 98-109

**COMMENTS OF WORLDCOM, INC.**

WorldCom, Inc. ("WorldCom") hereby files its comments in support of the relief sought in a letter submitted to the Common Carrier Bureau ("Bureau") by the Chairman of the North American Numbering Council ("NANC").<sup>1</sup> The Commission sought comments on the NANC Letter pursuant to a recent public notice.<sup>2</sup>

**I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

WorldCom, Inc. is a premier global telecommunications company. Through its wholly-owned subsidiaries WorldCom Technologies, Inc., MFS Telecom, Inc., WorldCom Network Services (d/b/a WilTel Network Services), and UUNET Technologies, Inc., the new WorldCom provides its business and residential customers with a full range of facilities-based and fully integrated local, long distance, and international telecommunications services, and information services. In particular, WorldCom currently is the fourth largest facilities-based

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Alan Hasselwander, Chairman, North American Numbering Council, to A. Richard Metzger, Jr., Chief, Common Carrier Bureau, FCC, dated January 21, 1998 ("NANC Letter").

<sup>2</sup> Public Notice, CC Docket No. 95-116, DA 98-109, dated January 21, 1998 ("Public Notice").

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interexchange carrier ("IXC") in the United States, as well as a significant facilities-based competitive local exchange carrier ("CLEC") and Internet service provider ("ISP").

In his January 21 letter, Mr. Hasselwander states that the Commission's Phase I implementation schedule for local number portability ("LNP") will be "significantly affected" in the Southeast, Western, and West Coast regions because of "vendor failure to provide a stable platform to support local number portability."<sup>3</sup> While the affected limited liability companies ("LLCs") are assessing the problem and will report to the Commission soon, Mr. Hasselwander notes that the FCC's rules currently require carriers to file petitions for waiver of the March 31, 1998 Phase I implementation date by January 29, 1998. Mr. Hasselwander states that, in light of the fact that "vendor failure in the affected regions is the principal reason for carriers' inability to timely meet the Commission's March 31" date, NANC recommends that the Commission allow carriers until March 1, 1998 to submit any necessary petitions for waiver.<sup>4</sup>

WorldCom strongly supports NANC's eminently reasonable and narrowly-tailored request. Under the unique circumstances outlined in Mr. Hasselwander's letter, carriers should be allowed to file petitions for waiver no later than March 1, 1998.

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<sup>3</sup> NANC Letter at 1.

<sup>4</sup> Id.

**II. THE COMMISSION SHOULD GRANT NANC's REQUEST FOR BRIEF DELAY  
IN THE CURRENT WAIVER REQUEST DEADLINE**

In Section 251(b)(2) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,<sup>5</sup> the U.S. Congress imposed the responsibility on implementing local number portability on local exchange carriers (LEC), both incumbent and new entrants, to the extent technically feasible. In response, the Commission issued its First Report and Order on local number portability issues on July 2, 1996,<sup>6</sup> and then in March 1997 acted on various reconsideration petitions in its First Memorandum Opinion and Order on Reconsideration.<sup>7</sup> The Commission followed up with its Second Report and Order in August 1997, in which Lockheed Martin IMS was selected as the vendor in four regions (Mid-Atlantic, Mid-West, Northeast, and Southwest) while Perot Systems was the chosen vendor in three regions (West Coast, Western, and Southeast regions.)<sup>8</sup>

As a leading CLEC, WorldCom has undertaken its responsibilities under the 1996 Act to implement LNP through additional investment in software and hardware specifically for LNP implementation in its network. WorldCom has also formally joined all seven of the LLCs taking the leading role in making LNP a reality throughout the country. These LLCs have

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<sup>5</sup> 47 U.S.C. Section 251(b)(2) (1996).

<sup>6</sup> Telephone Number Portability, First Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 11 FCC Rcd 8352, CC Docket No. 95-116 (1996) ("First Report and Order").

<sup>7</sup> Telephone Number Portability, First Memorandum Opinion and Order on Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 95-116, adopted March 6, 1997 ("Order on Reconsideration").

<sup>8</sup> Telephone Number Portability, Second Report and Order, CC Docket No. 95-116 (August 14, 1997), at para 3 ("Second Report and Order").

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issued requests for proposals, evaluated the responses, negotiated contracts, and signed contracts with two LNP suppliers.

NANC's letter concerns delays in LNP implementation in the Metropolitan Statistical Areas ("MSAs") of Atlanta, GA, Los Angeles, CA, and Minneapolis, MN, all in the Perot regions. As shown in the Local Number Portability Administration ("LNPA") Working Group's January 20 report to the NANC, the Number Portability Administration Center/Service Management System ("NPAC/SMS") -- which essentially is the total solution involving the various systems provided by a vendor to implement and operate LNP -- simply is not functioning in the Perot regions. Based on information provided by Perot to the pertinent LLCs in its regions, the Working Group's January 20 report states:

To date, the NPAC is not ready for Intercompany testing due to the failure of Perot Systems and its subcontractor Nortel to provide a stable software and hardware platform. Perot's latest project recovery proposal would extend SP [service provider] to SP NPAC Testing through six additional software loads through 7/6/98. Perot's plan, if accepted by the West Coast, Western and Southeast region LLCs will result in a significant impact to the FCC implementation schedule in these regions. The LLCs are currently evaluating the extent of the impact.<sup>9</sup>

In its First Report and Order, the Commission ordered LNP to be implemented in the top 100 MSAs of the country, beginning no later than October 1, 1997 and to conclude

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<sup>9</sup> Status Report of the LNPA Working Group Report to the North American Numbering Council, dated January 20, 1998. A copy of the cited page is attached herein.

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no later than December 31, 1998. The Commission divided the 100 MSAs into five phases, with the first phase to conclude implementation no later than Dec. 31, 1997. The MSAs of Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Minneapolis are in the first phase.

The First Report and Order also detailed waiver requirements if carriers could not meet the implementation deadlines:

In the event a carrier is unable to meet our deadlines for implementing a long-term number portability method, it may file with the Commission, at least 60 days in advance of the deadline, a petition to extend the time by which implementation in its network will be completed. We emphasize, however, that carriers are expected to meet the prescribed deadlines, and a carrier seeking relief must present extraordinary circumstances beyond its control in order to obtain an extension of time. A carrier seeking such relief must demonstrate through substantial, credible evidence the basis for its contention that it is unable to comply with our deployment schedule. Such requests must set forth: (1) the facts that demonstrate why the carrier is unable to meet our deployment schedule; (2) a detailed explanation of the activities that the carrier has undertaken to meet the implementation schedule prior to requesting an extension of time; (3) an identification of the particular switches for which the extension is requested; (4) the time within which the carrier will complete deployment in the affected switches; and (5) a proposed schedule with milestones for meeting the deployment date.<sup>10</sup>

The Commission extended the deadline for implementation of the first and second phases in its Order on Reconsideration. The first phase deadline was extended to March 31, 1998, and the second phase deadline was extended to May 15, 1998.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> First Report and Order at para. 85.

<sup>11</sup> Order on Reconsideration at paras. 79-80.

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While the First Report and Order details the information that must be included in any waiver request, the truly extraordinary circumstances that have led to NANC's letter do not lend themselves readily to the Commission's five specific points. Indeed, WorldCom supports NANC's request for an extension of the waiver deadline for the three MSAs (and not the actual deadline for LNP implementation), not because WorldCom as a carrier will be unable to comply with the mandate to implement LNP in its own network, but because the Perot-supplied NPAC is simply not functioning. This is indeed an extraordinary circumstance not envisioned by either the Commission or the industry, and is obviously beyond the control of WorldCom, or any LEC, in these regions.<sup>12</sup> Although Perot has given a preliminary time estimate of early July for a functioning NPAC that has been fully tested, WorldCom hesitates to ask for a specific length of time for an extended deadline because many issues remain under study. Further, the LLCs which have contracts with Perot are reviewing the timelines provided from Perot and positing alternate solutions. The LLCs are aware of the necessity to make timely decisions, but it is not known yet when these decisions will be made nor what their effects will be.

WorldCom can attest that it cannot begin commercial porting of numbers until it has successfully completed all testing requirements, and thus become LNP-certified in each

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<sup>12</sup> Consistent with the NANC letter, WorldCom also asks that the deadline for filing a waiver be extended only for LECs who would have to file waivers because of the Perot-caused delay.

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region. Several interrelated steps are involved. First, WorldCom has entered in the required "turn-up" testing in the West Coast MSA region without much success in completing any of the standard test cases. The required tests are conducted by an individual Service Provider ("SP") in conjunction with the NPAC to comprehensively test SP Service Order Administration ("SOA") functionality with the NPAC.

Additionally, "turn-up" and SP-to-SP testing is required for the Western and Southeast region MSAs. These tests are conducted by pairs of SPs in conjunction with the NPAC to comprehensively test and verify each SP's SOA and LSMS interface and interaction with the NPAC.

The final testing phase requires Intercompany Testing (tests between SPs including tests of network elements). These tests include the same activities performed during the field trial conducted in the Midwest region during August and September 1997.

In short, without the ability to use Perot's LNP systems, WorldCom will be unable to complete its testing and become LNP-certified. Thus, WorldCom submits there is ample good cause to support the limited relief sought by NANC. WorldCom urges the Commission to act expeditiously to grant the requested extension of time in which to file a waiver.

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**III. CONCLUSION**

The Commission should grant NANC's request, under the limited circumstances described, for an extension of time to file petitions for waiver until March 1, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. S. Whitt', is written over a horizontal line.

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Anne F. La Lena

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January 26, 1998



# Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC) System and Center Readiness Limited Liability Company (LLC) Reports As of January 20, 1998

## Milestones

	Northeast		Mid-Atlantic		Southeast		Southwest	
	Start	Finish	Start	Finish	Start	Finish	Start	Finish
1. NPAC Data Center Operational	Complete		Complete		Complete		Complete	
2. Interoperability Testing	5-15-97	8-3-97	5-26-97	8-4-97	9-13-97	10-12-97	5-15-97	8-3-97
3. Turn-up Testing	5-30-97	9-18-97	7-28-97	9-10-97	9-22-97	10-12-97	9-29-97	11-19-97
4. SP to SP NPAC Testing	9-29-97	10-16-97	9-11-97	9-26-97	10-13-97	TBD	11-20-97	12-5-97
5. NPAC Ready for Intercompany Testing	10-25-97	10-25-97	10-5-97	10-5-97	TBD	TBD	1-19-98	1-19-98
6. Intercompany Testing	10-27-97	11-29-97	10-6-97	10-28-97	TBD	TBD	1-20-98	3-20-98
7. Begin Commercial Porting	11-30-97	11-30-97	10-30-97	10-30-97	TBD	TBD	3-31-98	3-31-98
8. Additional SP Added	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
9. Jeopardy Issues	None		None		See ** Note		None	

	Midwest		Western		West Coast		Canada	
	Start	Finish	Start	Finish	Start	Finish	Start	Finish
1. NPAC Data Center Operational	Complete		Complete		Complete		Ready for Beta 1 Testing***	
2. Interoperability Testing	11-23-96	5-21-97	9-13-97	10-12-97	9-13-97	10-12-97	N/A	N/A
3. Turn-up Testing	5-19-97	7-25-97	9-22-97	10-12-97	9-22-97	10-12-97	11/17/97***	TBD
4. SP to SP NPAC Testing	7-25-97	8-7-97	10-13-97	TBD	10-13-97	TBD	TBD	TBD
5. NPAC Ready for Intercompany Testing	8-10-97	8-10-97	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
6. Intercompany Testing	8-11-97	9-26-97	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
7. Begin Commercial Porting	11-24-97*	11-24-97	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
8. Additional SP Added	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
9. Jeopardy Issues	None		See ** Note		See ** Note		None	

\* Ameritech Commercial Porting on hold pending cost recovery order.

\*\* To date, the NPAC is not ready for Intercompany testing due to the failure of Perot Systems and its subcontractor Nortel to provide a stable software and hardware platform. Perot's latest project recovery proposal would extend SP to SP NPAC Testing through six additional software loads through 7/6/98. Perot's plan, if accepted by the West Coast, Western and Southeast region LLCs, will result in a significant impact to the FCC implementation schedule in these regions. The LLCs are currently evaluating the extent of the impact.

\*\*\* Beta 1 Testing: Pre-Production Software Testing

## Milestone Definitions

1. NPAC Data Center Operational - NPAC vendor data centers available to begin testing with Service Providers (SPs); all hardware, software, circuits, and personnel subsystems in place.
2. Interoperability Testing - Tests conducted by the Service Order Administration (SOA) developers and the Local Service Management System (LSMS) developers in conjunction with the NPAC to test and verify SOA and LSMS interfaces with the NPAC.
3. Turn-up Testing - Tests conducted by an individual SP in conjunction with the NPAC to comprehensively test SP SOA and LSMS functionality with the NPAC.
4. SP to SP NPAC Testing - Tests conducted by pairs of SPs in conjunction with the NPAC to comprehensively test and verify each SPs SOA and LSMS interface and interaction with the NPAC (does not include tests of network elements).
5. NPAC Ready for Intercompany Testing - Vendor ready to begin intercompany tests.
6. Intercompany Testing - Tests between SPs including tests of network elements. The tests include the same activities performed during the field trial conducted in the Midwest region from 8-11-97 through 9-26-97.
7. Begin Commercial Porting - NPAC and SPs ready to begin live porting.
8. Additional SP Added - Another SP not involved in initial testing begins live porting.
9. Jeopardy Issues - Any situation that will preclude completion of a milestone by the finish date.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Richard S. Whitt, hereby certify that I have this 26th day of January, 1998, sent a copy of the foregoing "Comments of WorldCom, Inc." by hand delivery to the following:

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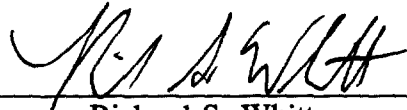
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